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February 28, 2011

Corbin R. Davis
Clerk of the Court
Michigan Supreme Court
925 W. Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: ADM 2006-38, Proposed Amendments of Subchapter 9.100 *et seq*

Dear Mr. Davis:

I support the changes proposed by the State Bar of Michigan to Chapter 9 of the Michigan Court Rules. I particularly support the proposed deletion of MCR 9.104(A)(5) (making it misconduct to violate any criminal law, whether or not it reflects adversely on fitness as a lawyer) in favor of the existing language in MRPC 8.4 which defines violations of the criminal law as professional misconduct and grounds for discipline "where such conduct reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer."

This proposed change should be viewed in the context of what I believe is a growing tendency to criminalize all manner of activity or conduct which, while it may warrant regulation by way of civil infraction or the like, certainly does not merit a criminal conviction. For example, in the community in which I live it is a misdemeanor if you do not clear snow from the sidewalk, or if your dog does not have license or if it "run[s] at large." It is also a misdemeanor to "jostle . . . any person in any street."

I am sure that with a modicum of effort, one could identify at the state and local level all manner of "crimes" which are quite unrelated to the question of whether one should be permitted to practice law in the State.

Sincerely,



John J. Ronayne, III

JJR:lyr